

The Dogumentary

27th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

July 2009

July Meeting at Thorne Bros.

The July 9 meeting will be held at Thorne Brothers Musky Shop at 7500 University Ave in NE Mpls., for our traditional pre-LOTW meeting. Pizza will be on the menu at 6:00, followed by a seminar from one of Thorne's staff of musky experts. After that, there will be plenty of time to browse and shop for any tackle and other gear you may need for the trip or otherwise.

2009 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

July 9	Monthly Meeting
July 18-25	2009 RockNRoll Musky Tour
August 6	Monthly Meeting
August 22	Bass Tournament II
Sep 3	Monthly Meeting
Sep 19	Multispecies Tournament
Oct 1	Monthly Meeting
Nov 5	Banquet

See the last page for 2009 Tourney Details

Only 16 Days until LOTW!

**Time to become one with your lures.
Sleep with a Cowgirl!**



From the Desk of the President, Helen Tom Keller



"You Boys go out there and Slam those Muskies! You hear me? Slam 'em!"

The annual LOTW meeting is at Thorn Brothers on the 9th. Pizza and soda will be served while we hear from our speaker. Many apologies about the scheduling confusion. I hope everyone can make it.

I am writing this column while sitting on a flight from LA to Minneapolis. Every time I travel back to California reminds me how good we have it in Minnesota. I am Minnesota native, but lived in California for many years. Several of the guy's I knew loved to fish. There is great reservoir Bass fishing in the foothills of the Sierra. Most of the lakes were within an hour's drive of my home, the wine town of Lodi. The problem was that the lakes in the area were very busy and in high demand. Like a great golf course, it can be hard to get access. I am not sure you guy's are aware, but you actually have to make launch reservations get on many of the lakes, especially in the summer. I some times have to remind myself of this fact while waiting 15 minutes at a launch on Minnetonka

or some other popular cities lake. We really have it made in Minnesota.

To change the subject, I have a fish tale to tell. I took the family camping in the Black Hills a few weeks back. We camped for 7 days, raining for 6, but we took that in stride. All in all it was a great trip. We spotted lots of wildlife, every thing from Big Horn Sheep to Prairie Dogs. One night, while sitting at our camp fire, 5 bull Buffalo decided to make our camp there home for a while. It was pretty cool and our kids though it was great, something they will always remember.

Anyways, our camp site was on a steam that had a 3 mile walk-in fishing trail, so I took advantage of our one rainless day and got out trout fishing. I spent an afternoon walking the trail, fishing pools along the way. I was consistently catching 12 inch Rainbows in every pool. But it took some time to figure out how to get larger fish to bite. The fish were really pressured. They see lot's of bait, everything from marshmallows to crank baits. The larger fish would rush the bait (I was using spinners), look at it and swing away, come back and swing away again. They wanted to eat, but knew the score. I decided to that I had too much flash, so I changed to an all black Panther Martin, hoping the less of flash would convince a bite.

I problem a faced was poison ivy. It was all over the place, so finding good spots to stand along shore was a challenge. I was forced to have to stand on a rocks, some time 6+ feet above the surface of the water. Since I was catching mostly smaller fish, being above the water was not a big problem

It was on the 5th pool I fished that I decided to change my spinner. It was a small pool, and I figured I'd catch more small fish. The first cast I made the black spinner was hit hard. It felt heavy, and I figured I had a good fish, but not a monster. Then the fish made several runs taking about 10 to 20 yards of line at a time. It was hooked solidly so I was able to bring the fish to the edge of the rock with out much trouble, but with 4 lb test there was nothing I could do. I didn't have a way to get closer to the water, short of jumping in, which would have forced me through a jungle of poison ivy, something I was not wiling to do. All I could do

was look at the fish. I was able to gage the length with my fishing rod fairly well. I estimated the fish to be 28-30 inches long. It was fat, healthy and a Rainbow of a life time and all I could do was cut the line.

I learned a valuable lesson to always be prepared for a big fish.

HK

Walleyes in the Wind

The third club tournament of the year was for Walleyes on the wind-swept waters of Big Stone Lake, which lived up to its reputation as a walleye producer and a boat-blower. The weather was better than the previous tournament on the lake a few years ago, but the western wind was strong enough to make it difficult to fish the Minnesota side of the lake. Luckily, the boat ramp and some of the best fishing were found on the less-choppy South Dakota side.

The team tournament rules were for a 2-day tournament, with up to 10 qualifying walleyes that could be counted for each team. Although plenty of fish were caught, many of the walleyes were short of the minimum size and many other species were also caught, which made it a challenge to find the right stuff for the scorecard. No team caught a limit either day, which kept the tournament placing potential open until the end. One good fish could have changed the results dramatically. The order changed between day one and day two, with the team of Bystrom and Keller coming from third place the first day, into first for the tournament by catching a good stringer on day two. Consistency paid off for the Analist and Helen, as the first day leaders, Shorty and Stu, slipped from a 2.5 pound lead into second place after a blanking out on day two. Luckily, they're first day total was good enough to carry them for the event.



A Couple Pre-Fish Walleyes for the Fryer

Third place for the tournament was the team of Mueller and Ferstenou, who were in sixth place after day one, but then caught the biggest stringer on day two to move up to third. In fourth was team Kojak and Shatner, and fifth was Mama's Boy and his side-kick Juan.



A Variety of Lures were used to Catch the Big Stone Walleyes

Sixth place went to Little Angel and Dr. Sticky, who fought the elements of earth wind and fire to come in sixth, and to come in back at the landing at all. On day two, the boys noticed a smell and some smoke coming out of the back end of Scott's boat. When they opened up the back compartment and saw fire, Dr. Sticky (Smokey) grabbed the fire extinguisher and painted the offending gear with a nice coat of white and fluffy fire retardant. The boys then limped their way home, and Scott is currently getting unknown electrical problem fixed.



Fluffy Finds a Phatty

Speaking of electrical problems, the first place team of Analist and Helen also had the covers off both motors on Mark's boat, as there was some electrical arcing going on when the big motor was started that caused a shock to the boat and any unfortunate swabbie that happened to be touching it. It turned out to be a bad spark plug wire, but this was not discovered until after the tournament. In the meantime, the boys used the boats shocking ability to coax more fish into biting, or maybe not.

Actually, the first-place team used a variety of methods to catch their walleyes, including planer boards and crankbaits, spinner rigs with crawlers and 'slow death' hooks, jigs, bottom-bouncers, trolling and drifting. They caught many of their better fish around Manhattan Island on the west side of the lake, but in the end only had eight qualifying walleyes to win the tournament. They had the legal limit of four lines out most of the time.

In all, there were 47 qualifying walleyes caught by the 20 Waterdogs who attended the tournament. Big fish honors were shared by Duper and Mama's Boy, who each caught 21" walleyes. Big Stone Lake wasn't the hot bite or big count of the St. Louis River tournaments, the event was average or better for a walleye tournament, and a good and relatively safe time was had by all.

Clearwater Bass Bonanza

As usual, the clubs bass tournaments turn out to be multiple-fish events, with many fish caught by every team. This was the case for the Clearwater bass tournament on Friday, June 19. Twenty-five Waterdogs took the day off from work to fish the event. There were numerous fish caught, but oddly, the sizes weren't that big, with 18" being the largest, similar to our experience on Lake Sylvia last year. There were plenty of bass to be caught, however, and a number of methods and locations were used to successfully fool the fish.

In a tournament first, there were four 'Biggest Fish' candidates of 18" largemouths, with two of them caught by Kirk, and other 18's caught by Doug Squire and John Schaffhausen. Each angler was awarded an extra point for their catches.



Mama's 18

Eight of the 12 teams caught boat limits of 10 bass, with the winning stringer caught by Kirk and Father Tim using Senkos, which was probably the most popular lure used by most fisherman. Their winning confession follows.

In second place was the team of Hamre and Happel, who also used Senkos to catch their limit. They mainly fished the deep edges of reed beds using bubble-gum Senkos, of course.



Nasty 17

In third was The team of OF and Griz, and in fourth was Nasty and Juan. Fifth place was the team of FD and Mama's Boy, with the top 6 teams finished off with Perp and Meat.

No incidents of equipment failure or bad sportsmanship were reported.

Father Bertha's Bass Confession

I was lined up with the hottest reel in the club, Kirk Duholm, Mr. HOT REELS, better known by the manufacturer's name of Mattel, for the bass tournament on Clearwater. We set out to do some pre-fishing the week before, and we knew that the pattern may change but we wanted to get a feel for the lake. There were two things that we found out: one, the lake is clear thus the name Clearwater and two, the fish were located off of deep breaks. So this helped us narrow down a good pattern for fishing the lake, we decided we wanted to look for lily pads next to deep breaks. Why lily pads? Because with the clear water we found that the fish were easily spooked.

The next thing to do was pattern a bait, and that came pretty easy. We used mainly senkos. If you have not fished senkos, I would be happy to take you out to fish them, I owe the club for helping me with this one and many others. But I would say for me mid June to early July is hot-hot-hot senko time for big bass. If you want to catch a 20 inch plus bass this is the lure and use this pattern that we fished. I am by no means an expert but you learn from others and figure out what works. For me it is pin-point casting. Most all our fish came from the cast and drop. There is something about hitting the correct spot and letting it just sit there and do its thing, and if a

bass is there it will take the senko. After some time on the water, you can almost predict where to throw, a nice shelf with a dark hole from the lily pads...and a big momma is somewhere close and she is ready to smack that bait. With all the slime on the metro lakes it is important again to be accurate in your cast other wise you will be slimed right away.

For accurate casting, I like a bait caster, so I bought a Shimano Chronarch MG, it is the smoothest casting reel that I ever have used and super light. Strung with 20 pound test Power-Pro and I use a 4/0 worm hook. I also use a special California double knot...all of this because I set the hook hard and fierce, anything less and the line breaks and hook bends. I have to replace hooks regularly from them bending. I know that Mattel uses a spinning reel, so this again will be personal preference and time on the water to determine that. We both used five inch cinnamon colored senkos.

Mattel and I used this pattern and very early in the day picked up a limit, and so then we tried to up-size the fish. Kirk did this with two beautiful 18 inchers which came in the 10 o'clock hour with the lily pad and the deep hole pattern. I also added something to this pattern and that was to fish the break, I did this with a 1/8 ounce weed weasel and a tequila power worm. I think that I was able to added 4 or 5 bigger fish to the bag by this. I think the thing that helped us is that we were confident in our pattern and we seemed to be up-grading our fish throughout the day and we had fun.

A little note for LOTW - I will not be there, but I would highly recommend the double cowgirl, black and silver. You will have to work the bait, and this is hard part but worth the pay off...you will feel the pulsating wake that the bait will give off and you will see it. And last year for me, this seemed to be the pattern for big fish: the wake really brought the fish out. Hooking them and bringing them in is another story. Again for me, that is why you use 80 pound test and 150 pound leaders...set the hook...bruise your ribs setting the hook. It is amazing how those fish can just spit those big hooks, so keep them sharp.

Fishing for Life Fishathon

By Shatner

The Fishing For Life Fishathon was held on Lake Marion on Saturday June 27. The rain and thunderstorms cleared out Saturday morning just in time for the event, sponsored by Fishing for Life. This was an opportunity for kids to fish and compete for prizes and trophies.

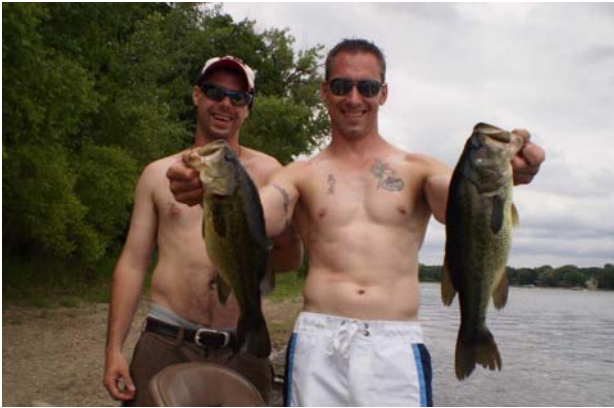
It was well organized and attended in spite of the weather, with 40-50 kids participating. Most of the kids were bussed out from Minneapolis with support from the Gospel Mission. The Minnesota Teen Challenge organization provided assistance along with others who volunteered with boats.

I had a chance to take two shifts of two kids out in my boat for some panfishing during the morning. Although the fishing was slow and the sunfish were very small they enjoyed a chance to ride in and drive a boat.



Yeah, We're Driving!

Following the event I took two of the young Teen Challenge volunteers out for a few minute of bass fishing before leaving. Senkos put an 18 and 19 inch bass in the boat in about 30 minutes of fishing. These two guys were thrilled and very appreciative. We agreed to be in contact later when their rehab program allows them to get out for independent activities.



Fishing Rehab Works Wonders

The Fishing for Life organization holds other local events through out the summer promoting kids fishing and are looking for other groups to partner with them in these activities. This may be a chance for the Waterdogs to expand their special service activities.

Kirk

Waterdog's Fishing Reports:

Fathers Day Fishing Trip

By James "Griz" Ferstenou

After our Clearwater bass fishing tournament I traveled back to my parents in Chippewa Falls, WI for Fathers Day weekend. Dad and I originally wanted to get out fishing on Saturday afternoon but we decided to go early Sunday (6/21/09) morning instead due to the heat and humidity on Saturday afternoon. We decided to fish Rock Lake (located in Chippewa County, East of New Auburn, WI) since he and my Brother had a decent fishing trip there about three weeks prior. I have fished this lake many times in the winter for pike and panfish but this would be the first time that I fished it in the summer. It's a small 94 acre lake with a maximum depth of 35 feet, but it has some nice break lines, weed lines and two mid-lake humps that top out at about 2'-3' deep. Lily pads ring most of the shoreline. The entire lake is no wake and it has only one small boat launch operated by the small campground/bar/restaurant. There were 8-10 other boats fishing on the lake throughout the day, but with the no wake rule you hardly noticed them.

We launched the boat and started fishing by 6:30 AM. The water temperature was just over

75 degrees, the lake was calm and there was cloud cover. Fishing conditions were nearly ideal. I started by throwing a scum frog in the pads while Dad threw a spinner bait over the submerged weeds in front of the lily pads. We had trolled a few hundred yards down the shoreline without a single strike, which I found odd, so I broke out the old "Billy Barule" (A.K.A. the 4" smoke with black flake Senko). It wasn't long before I boated the first bass of the day, a fat 16"er. After another 30 minutes or so of fishing Dad decided to give up on the spinner bait as well since he still hadn't had one hit and I had boated 5-6 bass. He switched to the Senko as well (and I switched colors to cinnamon) and a pattern emerged fairly quickly. The bass were holding at the edge of lily pads that had submerged weeds in front of them in about 6'-8' of water. We caught a few fish shallower, but they were smaller fish.

Dad and I fished until 11:30 AM (minus 30-45 minutes that I used to "trace" the deep weed edges of the two humps with GPS waypoints for future reference, especially for ice fishing) and ended up catching around 35 (+/-) largemouth bass. We didn't catch anything huge (although the lake does have 20"+ bas in it), but we still had a good average size. I'd say that all but about 5 of the bass were over 13" with the majority of them being in the 14"-16" range. The biggest fish of the day was a 17.5"er. It was a great way to spend Fathers Day and we both had a fun morning. We finished off the outing by stopping at the restaurant for a beer and a burger for lunch before heading home. Based on the success that we had on this trip (and the success that my Dad and Brother had previously) I think that I'll be spending a few more days on the lake this summer.

This Bud's for You:

Kevin Miller fished Mille Lacs lake on June 23 and caught some nice walleyes, with 5 over 26 inches, and several in the 22-24" range, with only one fish small enough to keep to eat. He and his partner also fished smallies in the late morning and early afternoon, catching about 30, topped by a couple of 19's. The smallies came from the rocks on slip bobbers and leeches. It was a tremendous day of fishing.

First Time's A Charm

By James "Griz" Ferstenou

Last December I "stood in" for my dad and escorted my mom to his company's Christmas party since he wasn't yet feeling up to it only two weeks after prostate surgery and since I wasn't working at the time. I had worked at his office for two summers in the past and attended many other office events over the years so I knew nearly everyone there. Over dinner I got into a conversation about fishing (image that) with one of dad's co-workers. His family has a cabin near ours and he mentioned that his 16 year old son, Alex, wanted to get into musky fishing. He had bought a few lures and a stiffer "musky" spinning rod at the end of last year, but had not yet been out musky fishing. I offered to take him out musky fishing a few times this summer whenever we could work it out (and assuming that dad would let me use his boat for the outings). At that point I made it a goal of mine to put Alex on his first musky at some point this summer/fall.

Over the last month or so we were able to work out a date and time to finally get Alex out on the water. We planned to get out after Alex was done working on Saturday evening (6/27/09) on Sand Lake (where our family cabin is located) near Bruce, WI. The weather had been less than cooperative on Saturday. It rained most of the morning, at times hard enough to cause ponding in the front yard of the cabin, and the bottom dropped out of the barometer. By the afternoon the weather had cleared up so that we could get out fishing as planned in the evening, but I wasn't expecting to do very well. I figured that at a minimum I could teach Alex the basics of musky fishing and that we could always pick another day to go a second time.

We began fishing around 5:45 PM and I started by sharpening the hooks on Alex's bucktail, showing him the basics of the figure 8 and giving him a few other general pointers near the boat landing, then it was off to the first spot. I was throwing the Double Cowgirl from the front of the boat (I offered the front to Alex but he preferred the back) and Alex was casting a 6"-7" yellow and brown bucktail with a silver blade from the back of the boat. We fished my favorite musky spot on the lake, a submerged weed bed on a point near deep

water, and nothing. I then moved to the next spot, another point near the first one that has deep water on both sides, lily pads on top and submerged weeds in front of the pads.

I worked along the point slowly and rounded the tip, keeping the boat in 15'-20' of water and casting into about 4' of water. I had just started down the back side of the point when Alex made a perfect cast back across the very tip of the point. I just happened to be looking in the direction of his lure when I saw a greenish flash come in from the side. Alex's rod bent over and the fight was on. At first I thought that he might have hooked a decent bass, but once the fish went to the side again I could see that he was indeed hooked up with his first musky. Now we just had to get it to the boat. I was a bit worried about that prospect since Alex was using a spinning rod spooled with 12 lb test monofilament line. I had checked his drag before we began (and I had offered him one of my musky rods to use but he wanted to use his own equipment) but I was still worried about the fish breaking the line or throwing the hook.

The musky made several runs and came out of the water twice, earning Alex a small audience of fishermen in adjacent boats and campers/cabin goers on shore. Once the fish had tired a bit Alex finally got it near the boat and I scooped it up in the net. Alex had his first musky, a fat 36"er and he only had to cast for about 30 minutes to get it. This fish absolutely inhaled the lure. When I went to unhook the fish it was clear that I was going to have to cut something to get the lure out. Believe it or not, all three point of the treble hook were already swallowed and all that I could see of the hook sticking out of the fish's stomach was the very top of the eye and the split ring. Not wanting to risk trying to remove the hook and injuring the fish I decided to cut the wire of the lure where it attaches to the split ring since that was all that I could safely get a tool on. After a few photos we released the fish and she swam off. Hopefully the hook will dissolve soon and the fish will live. I figured that it's better to give it that much of a chance verses almost certainly harming it if I would have tried to get the hook out from that deep in the fish.



A Griz-Guided 36

We fished for about another 2 hours after that and I had one other follow before we decided to call it a night. Both of us had a great time and I think that Alex is looking forward to giving musky fishing another try. I was glad to be a part of introducing him to the sport and I hope to be able to get him out chasing the big girls

again this summer or fall. Now I just need to repair his new favorite lure and get it back to him over the 4th of July weekend.

And another personal best...



Another Specie falls for the Senko

2009 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
√ Saturday, March 21	Trout	WI Rivers	Janitor, Nasty, Shatner
√ Saturday, April 25	Crappie	Washington Lake	Mama's Boy, Griz
√ Sat-Sun, May 30-31	Walleyes	Big Stone Lake	Duper, Analist, Perp
√ Friday, June 19	Bass	Clearwater Lake	Helen, Buick
Saturday, August 22	Bass	Chisago Lakes	Chips, Farm B, Fluffy
Saturday, Sep 19	Multispecies	Minnetonka	Greenstick, Shorty, Kirk